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News Release

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Sierra National Forest: Tips to stay safe and enjoy your forest this holiday weekend.

CLOVIS, Calif., July 2, 2014 – For Immediate release - The Fourth of July is a busy time of year on the Sierra National Forest and current drought conditions call for increased preparedness while visiting. Please note that the recently implemented listing of the endangered species by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has made no change to your ability to recreate on the forest. The Sierra National Forest is open. The U.S. Forest Service is reminding people visiting the area to be safe, and offering a multitude of tips for visitors.

Be Fire Safe by:

- Leaving fireworks of any kind, including firecrackers and sparklers, at home. It is illegal in the Sierra National Forest to have these items
- Checking where campfires and cooking fires are allowed. With current fire restrictions campfires are allowed in designated campgrounds. For the Fourth of July consider bringing a gas grill for your picnic. Charcoal is not allowed in picnic sites. Please note: visitors are allowed to have a portable gas stove or lantern (with a flame on/off switch) outside of developed or designated campgrounds with a valid campfire permit. Free campfire permits are available at any Forest Service, Cal Fire or Bureau of Land Management office.
- For additional fire information, visit the "One Less Spark" website at www.preventwildfireca.org/OneLessSpark/

Enjoy your visit:

- All facilities with drinking water are open and available for your visit. You may call our office and be updated on available drinking water locations. It's always a safe idea to bring plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Be prepared, bring sunscreen, a sweater or jacket, flashlight and let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Come early on the Fourth to find your favorite spot; we expect a large number of visitors and parking may be limited at the most popular locations.
- Pets are welcome in National Forests, but must always be leashed or restrained, especially in campgrounds.

For additional recreation information please contact the Forest Service offices in Clovis at (559) 297-0706, North Fork (559) 877-2218 and Prather at (559) 855-5355. Office hours are from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our offices will be closed on Friday, July 4th.

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